

## **CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. A method of treating a target plant to confer stress tolerance comprising inoculating said plant or  
5 a part of said plant with a culture of *Curvularia*.
2. A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said stress tolerance is thermal  
tolerance.
3. A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said stress tolerance is drought  
tolerance.
- 10 4. A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said plant is a monocot or said plant  
part is from a monocot.
5. A method of treating a plant according to claim 4 wherein said monocot is a grass.
6. A method of treating a plant according to claim 4 wherein said monocot is a wheat.
7. A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said plant is a dicot or said plant part is  
15 from a dicot.
8. A method of treating a plant according to claim 7 wherein said dicot is a eudicot.
9. A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said plant part is a seed.
10. A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said plant part is a seedling.
11. A method of treating a target plant to confer growth enhancement comprising inoculating said  
20 plant or a part of said plant with a culture of *Curvularia*.
12. A composition comprising a pure culture of *Curvularia*.